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MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS PRACTICAL SKILL ORTHOSTATIC BLOOD PRESSURE MEASUREMENT

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Signature:	
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Purpose:			Indications:	
To measure postural blood pre suspected hypovolemia.	ssure changes in pat	Patients with suspected hypovolemia.		
Advantages:	Disadvantages:	Complications:		Contraindications:
Multiple readings enable	Improperly sized	Change in position may cause		Supine systolic blood
monitoring of patient's	cuff may give	hypotension with associated		pressure <90
hemodynamic stability	false reading	symptoms		

Take and record systolic and diastolic blood pressure and pulse while patient is supine

Have patient stand, assisting as necessary

Observe carefully for associated signs and symptoms, protecting patient from falling

After 30 seconds, repeat blood pressure and pulse measurements
(A drop in systolic pressure of 20 mmHg or increase in pulse rate of 20/minute is significant)

NOTES:

 Orthostatic (postural) hypotension is a drop in both systolic and diastolic blood pressure with a change from supine to sitting or standing position. It is generally accompanied by dizziness, blurred vision and/or syncope.